
JAPAN MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Afternoon Alert - Tuesday, November 15, 2016

The following information reflects the reporting of the cited news media and does not reflect the opinions of the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo. Japan Media Highlights is intended for USG use only and should not be forwarded. Visit the website [here](#). For more information, contact TokyoMATT@state.gov.

Please fill out our short online [Readership Survey!](#)

HEADLINES

Noon news

Most networks led with reports that the Abe cabinet decided this morning to allow GSDF troops on a PKO mission in South Sudan to conduct "rush to the rescue" operations, saying that this is a major turning point in Japan's security policy. TBS said the new duties will be limited to Juba and the surrounding area considering the security situation in South Sudan. PM Abe was quoted as saying at the Diet this morning that peace and stability in South Sudan will bring peace and stability to the surrounding nations and Africa as a whole. The premier also pledged to protect the safety of SDF troops by saying the GOJ will not hesitate to withdraw them if securing their safety becomes difficult.



I want You!
to complete the
JMH Survey

It just takes
a moment.

Click HERE

INTERNATIONAL

“Trump Shock” to embolden Japan, others to increase defense spending

Nikkei's senior writer Oishi said in a front-page commentary that Japan may be prompted to either increase host nation support for the U.S. military or to spend more for the SDF in view of the election of Donald Trump, who has urged Japan and other U.S. allies to shoulder a greater share of the cost of stationing the U.S. military. Pointing out that the country's HNS budget peaked in 1999 at about 275 billion yen and dropped to almost 190 billion yen last year, the writer said some Japanese may advocate greater HNS in order to please the incoming Republican government. While projecting that a Trump administration would not put its allies ahead of U.S. interests and that the President-elect would not be impressed by such rhetoric as the U.S. and Japan being bound by common values, the writer wondered if some Japanese politicians, including those close to Prime Minister Abe, as well as other American allies may support greater funding for their own militaries, rather than increasing financial support for American troops. However, the journalist expressed doubts about this approach by saying: "It is doubtful whether world peace can be preserved if more countries choose to expand their own militaries without coordinating with one other."

PM Abe's advisor Kawai meets with Trump aides

Several networks reported at noon that PM Abe's advisor Kawai, who is currently visiting Washington, met with William Studeman, a former director of the National Security Agency who is believed to have close ties with Trump. According to NHK, Kawai told Studeman that PM Abe is hoping to swiftly build a personal relationship of trust with President-elect Trump. Studeman reportedly responded that PM Abe would be the first leader in the world for the President-elect to directly hold talks with, and that the meeting will be an extremely important one. Kawai is said to have told reporters after the meeting: "We exchanged views on the importance of the bilateral alliance. It is still unknown who will join the new government and what kind of policies it will have, but I sensed great expectations for PM Abe from the Trump side." Kawai is expected to also visit New York and meet with Republican lawmakers and members of Trump's transition team.

Russia's economy minister detained over bribe

NHK and TV Asahi reported at noon that Russian authorities announced that Economy Minister Alexei Ulyukayev has been detained for receiving a bribe related to his ministry's approval of the sale of stocks of a state-run oil company. Noting that Ulyukayev is an important cabinet member who is handling the eight-point economic cooperation plan recently proposed by Japan, the networks said there is concern that this development could affect the plan ahead of President Putin's visit to Japan next month. NHK quoted METI Minister Seko, who was scheduled to meet with Ulyukayev this weekend, as telling reporters this morning: "To be honest, I just met him and I am very surprised...The two governments have already agreed to draft a road map [for the economic cooperation]. I would imagine Minister Ulyukayev will not be able to come because he has been detained, but I hope to work on the road map with someone else or whoever succeeds him."

“Paper Lanterns” documentary on American A-bomb victims shown in Nagasaki

Nagasaki Shimbun reported on the screening on Monday in Nagasaki of “Paper Lanterns,” a documentary film about Hiroshima A-bomb survivor Shigeaki Mori who reached out to the families of 12 American POWs who were killed by the atomic bombing of Hiroshima in 1945. During the event, which was sponsored by the Japan-America Society of Nagasaki and the U.S. Consulate in Fukuoka, the film’s producer, Peter Grilli, expressed the hope that the messages of Hiroshima and Nagasaki will be passed on to future generations. The film includes video of President Obama embracing Mori during his visit to Hiroshima, a scene that deeply impressed people around the world.

- [**Editorial: Caution toward “introvert U.S.” should be kept even under bullish stock market**](#) (Nikkei)
- [**Russia reluctant to resume peace treaty talks with Japan**](#) (Kyodo News)
- [**Editorial: Foster greater strategic relations via Japan-India nuclear power cooperation**](#) (The Japan News)
- [**More than 3 million tweeted on the day of U.S. election; “What’s going to happen to the world?”**](#) (Tokyo Shimbun Evening edition)
- [**Cartoon: Donald Trump**](#) (Sankei)
- [**Cartoon: Donald Trump**](#) (Akahata)
- [**Interview: No TPP without US, says Malaysian PM**](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [**Interview: Some politicizing 1MDB for personal advantage, Malaysian leader says**](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [**Abe, German president agree not to allow the change of status quo by force with an eye on South China Sea**](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [**China worried over Japan’s bid to add remote islands to UNESCO list**](#) (Kyodo News)

SECURITY

U.S. military to inspect progress in helipad construction

Ryukyu Shimpo wrote that the U.S. military is planning to make a final inspection on progress in the construction of helipads at the Northern Training Area (NTA) today. The U.S. military will make an official decision this week or later on the partial return of the NTA and send the GOJ documents related to real estate retrocession if it confirms that it is possible for the Japanese government to complete the construction work by the end of this year. The GOJ plans to complete the process of returning the NTA by notifying landowners of the termination of land lease agreements as soon as it

receives the relevant documents from the U.S. military. The U.S. and Japanese governments are considering holding a ceremony on the return of the NTA around Dec. 20. According to a GOJ source, the central government plans to invite Governor Onaga to the ceremony and is considering holding the event in Naha to forestall any disturbances.

- [New mission significant for ensuring SDF safety: Inada](#) (Yomiuri)

POLITICS

Abe hopes to confirm commitment to TPP with member countries' leaders

Fuji TV reported at noon that PM Abe said during a Diet session this morning that he would like to confirm with President Obama and other TPP nations' leaders their commitment to putting the trade pact into force. The premier reportedly said: "At the summit meeting of 12 TPP member states to be held on the sidelines of the APEC summit, I would like to reaffirm the commitment to putting the TPP into force." He also expressed hope to reach an agreement to move forward with domestic procedures. PM Abe added that if no progress is made on the ratification process, Japan may utilize the framework in East Asia that includes China.

- [Prime minister's schedule on November 13 & 14](#) (Nikkei)
- [Current Diet session likely to be extended](#) (Nikkei)

ECONOMY

- [Gist of interpellations at Upper House special committee on TPP, Nov. 14](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Abe warns TPP impasse would shift focus to China-inclusive trade pact](#) (Kyodo News)
- [PM Abe remains determined to ratify TPP accord](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Interview: TPP should be renegotiated for start without U.S.](#) (Jiji Press)
- [LDP Diet affairs chief makes gaffe on "steamrolling" TPP bills](#) (Mainichi)
- [BOJ Gov. Kuroda shows concern over U.S. opposition to TPP](#) (Nikkei)
- [Exports drive up Japan's GDP despite weak domestic demand](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- ["Japan has kept promise on TPP," says Koizumi, LDP director of agriculture](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)

- [Japan to offer 1-year path to permanent residency](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Editorial: Companies must stop terrible practice of excessive working hours](#) (The Japan News)

OPINION POLLS

- [58% are anxious about Japan-U.S. relationship, Yomiuri poll](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Opinion poll & results from Yomiuri Shimbun](#) (Yomiuri)
- [67% negative about Trump, Sankei-FNN poll](#) (Sankei)
- [Opinion poll & results from Sankei Shimbun](#) (Sankei)

TV PROGRAMS

How ISIL recruits terrorists

NHK's "Close-up Gendai Plus" on Monday reported on how ISIL is recruiting young people to become terrorists, saying that the extremist group uses a messaging app called Telegram that has a self-destruct timer and encoding system so that the messages cannot be tracked by the authorities. The program said many young people, even those from wealthy families, are becoming terrorists in Europe and Asia, adding that the extremists search for vulnerable, sometimes suicidal young people. An expert said efforts by local communities to engage young people and help them find meaning in their lives will be necessary to prevent them from being radicalized.

AMBASSADOR

Kishida takes Ambassador Kennedy to dinner

TV Asahi reported on Tuesday that earlier in the day FM Kishida took Ambassador Kennedy to dinner at a Tokyo restaurant to celebrate her birthday later this month. The network said Kishida expressed hope for a seamless transition of government in the U.S., and the Ambassador said she believes the U.S.-Japan relationship will continue to develop under a Trump administration. The network said the Ambassador is expected to be replaced when the new U.S. government starts in January.

Asahi, Sankei, and Jiji filed similar stories online, quoting Kishida as saying: "The U.S.-Japan alliance is the cornerstone of Japan's diplomacy. We will continue to closely cooperate with the Obama administration for ensuring peace and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region and around the world. Ambassador Kennedy has played an indispensable role in U.S.-Japan relations. Thanks to her, we were able to hold a number of events signifying the strength of the bilateral alliance,

including President Obama's visit to Hiroshima." In reply, the Ambassador reportedly said it was exactly three years since her arrival in Japan, that the gathering was a chance to acknowledge Minister Kishida's many accomplishments, and that she was honored to have worked with him. According to Asahi, the dinner was arranged by Kishida in the belief that this would probably be the last opportunity to dine with the Ambassador in view of the election of Donald Trump.

